ACT 12
TWO PEOPLE
EASTERN SEA OF CHINA, 1841 A.D.
HEY, MANUEL SAYS HE SAW IT TOO!
OH! Y'MEAN THAT GHOST LADY THAT SHOWS UP ON THE PROW?
THEY SAY IF YA KEEP YER EYE ON A CERTAIN SPOT WHILE YER STANDIN' NIGHT WATCH...
WHAT? WHAT'RE WE TALKIN' ABOUT HERE?
THAT'S EIGHT MEN NOW!
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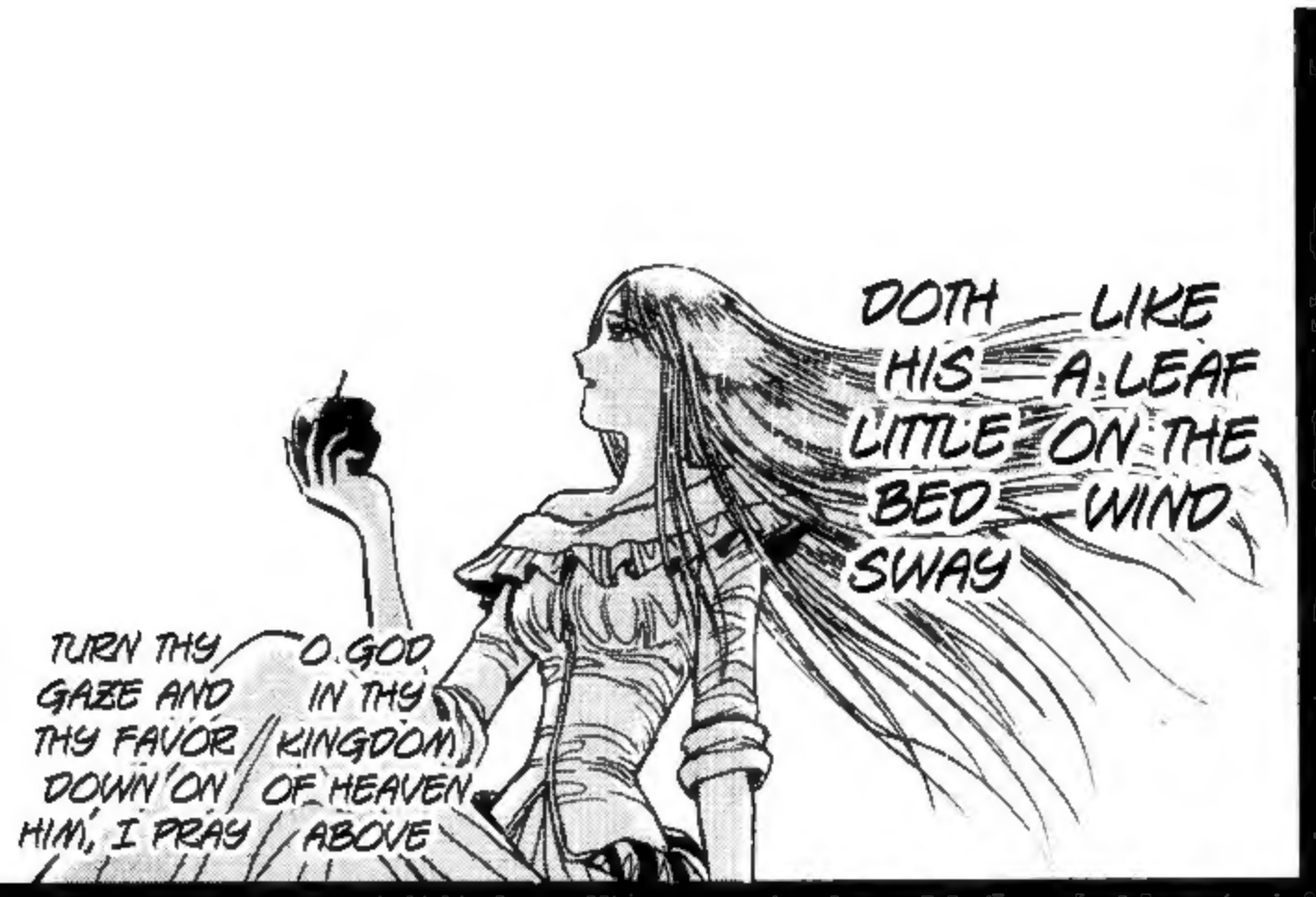
THINKIN' IT WAS ODD, HE WENT TO CHECK WHERE TH'VOICE WAS COMIN' FROM.
AN' THEN, JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT, MIXIN' INTO THE SOUND OF THE WAVES, HE STARTED T'HEAR WHAT SOUNDED LIKE SINGIN'...
WELL, ANYHOW, Y'KNOW HOW MANUEL HAD WATCH DUTY LAST NIGHT?
SAYS HE WAS NURSIN' A BOTTLE OF RUM.

第12幕 二人

HE WAS STUNNED!
'FIRST HE BLAMED THE BOOZE, BUT HE'S GOOD WITH HIS DRINK. HE'D NEVER HAD ANY KINDA HALLUCINATIONS BEFORE.
AND THEN, ON TOP OF EVERYTHIN' ELSE...
A SINGIN' WOMAN...? THAT AIN'T NO MANNER OF GOOD OMEN.
MAKES YA THINK OF THOSE LORELEI CREATURES AND THEIR CURSED SONGS.
BUT MANUEL SAID IT WASN'T THE SCARY KINDA SONG.
WELL, WHAT KIND WAS IT, THEN?!
HE SAID...
IT WAS LIKE A LULLABY...
MY DEAR LITTLE BOY WITH A HEART FULL OF LOVE
THE WOMAN WAS AMAZIN'LY BEAUTIFUL, HE SAYS.
4


DOTH HIS LITTLE BED SWAY
LIKE A LEAF ON THE WIND
O GOD IN THY KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ABOVE
TURN THY GAZE AND THY FAVOR DOWN ON HIM, I PRAY

BY THE TIME MANUEL GOT THERE, THE WOMAN WAS GONE.

BESTOW SOME SMALL MERCY, ONE DAY BY AND BY
UPON HIM; UPON ALL OF US UNDER THIS SKY...

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WELL, WE WON'T BE SEEIN' HER AGAIN.
WE HIT NAGASAKI TOMORROW.

A GHOST SINGIN' A LULLABY! TALK ABOUT NONSENSE!
SO HE WAS JUST HALF-ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME, THEN!
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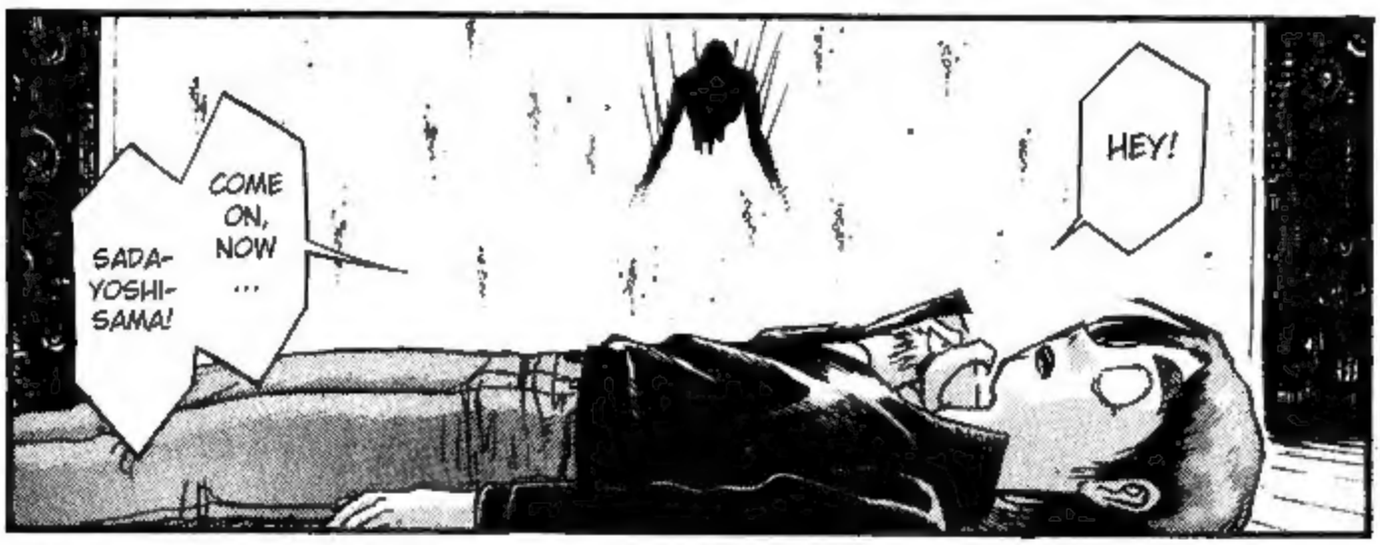
SFX: AHAHA!

MANSION OF THE VILLAGE HEAD

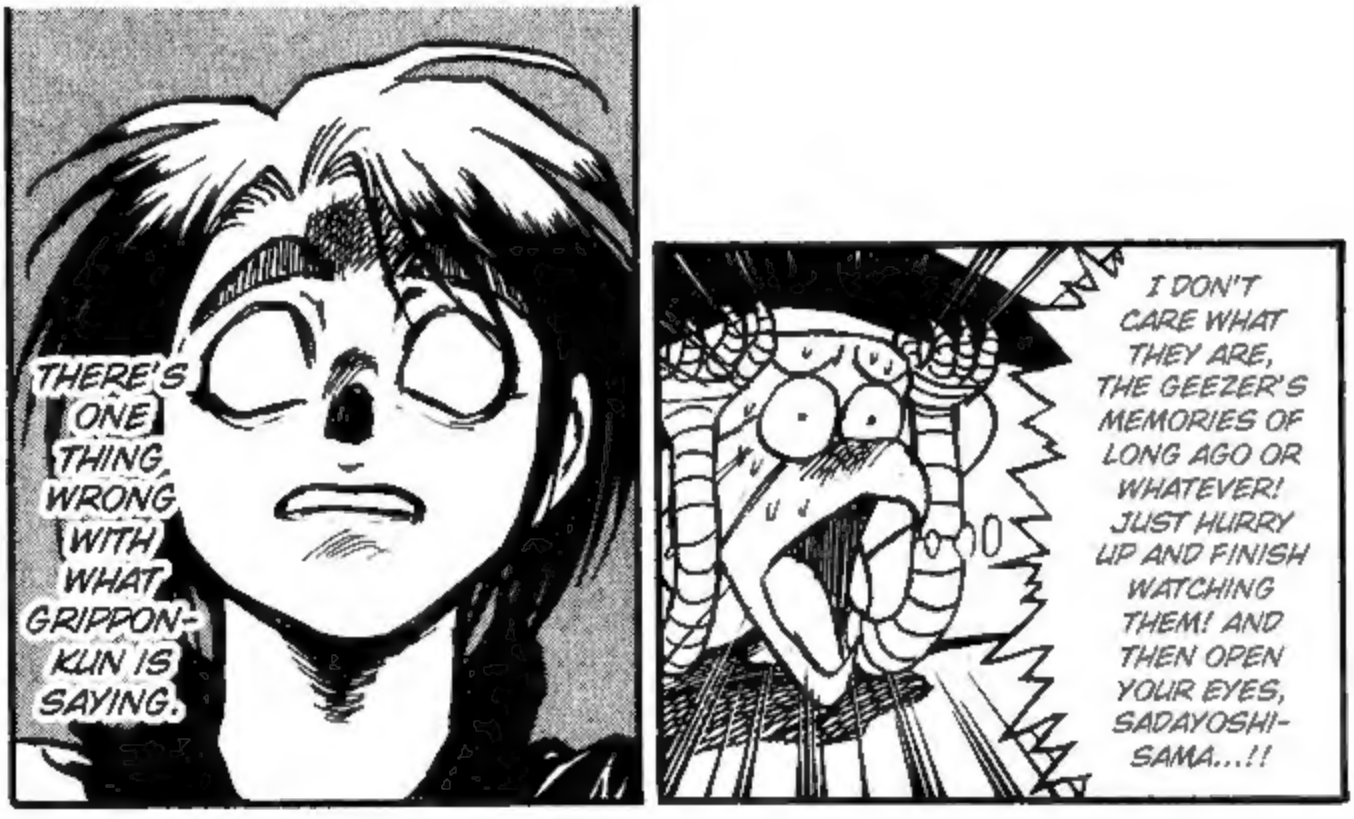
KUROGA VILLAGE, IN THE KINKI REGION
THE PRESENT DAY


SADA-YOSHI-SAMA!
COME ON, NOW ...
HEY!

THEY CLAIM IT'S SOME MEDICINE TO MAKE HIM SEE THAT FLOATING OLD FOGEY'S MEMORIES...
FOR PETE'S SAKE! HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR TEN MINUTES NOW, EVER SINCE THOSE GUYS FROM KUROGA VILLAGE MADE HIM DRINK THAT STRANGE LIQUID!

SFX: GLARE
AHHH...! I CAN'T EVEN MOVE!

SFX: GLANCE
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, SADAYOSHI-SAMA?!


THERE'S ONE THING WRONG WITH WHAT GRIPPON-KUN IS SAYING.
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY ARE, THE GEEZER'S MEMORIES OF LONG AGO OR WHATEVER! JUST HURRY UP AND FINISH WATCHING THEM! AND THEN OPEN YOUR EYES, SADAYOSHI-SAMA...!!

MY NAME IS SAIGA MASARU. BUT THE REST OF IT IS TRUE.

RIGHT NOW I'M TRAVELING AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED THROUGH MY GRANDPA'S MEMORIES.

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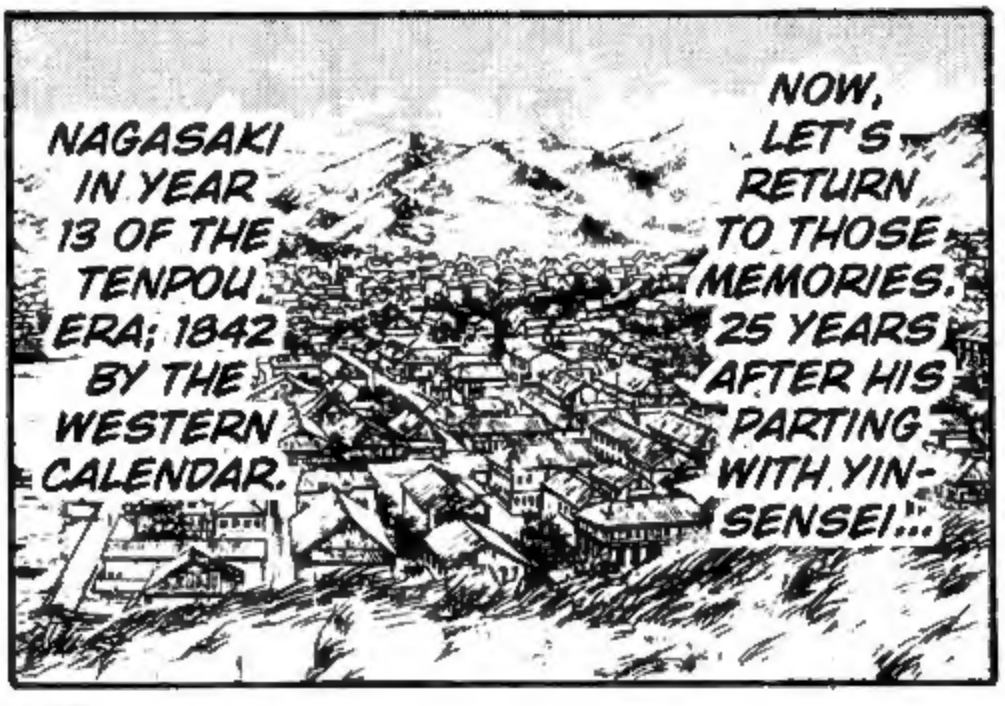
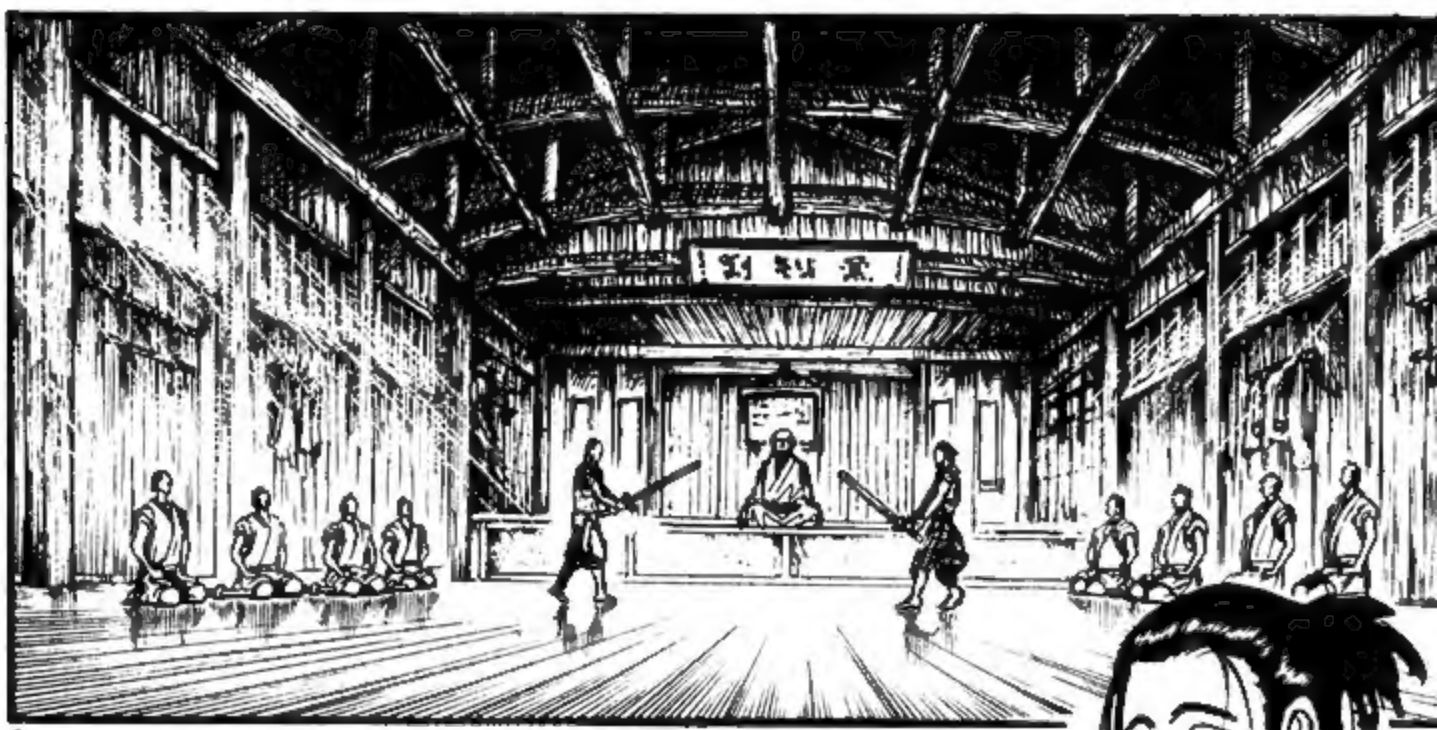

NAGASAKI IN YEAR 13 OF THE TENPOU ERA; 1842 BY THE WESTERN CALENDAR.
NOW, LET'S RETURN TO THOSE MEMORIES. 25 YEARS AFTER HIS PARTING WITH YIN-SENSEI...

GRANDPA'S NAME BACK THEN WAS NARUSE SHOUJIROU. IN THESE MEMORIES, THAT'S MY NAME AS WELL.



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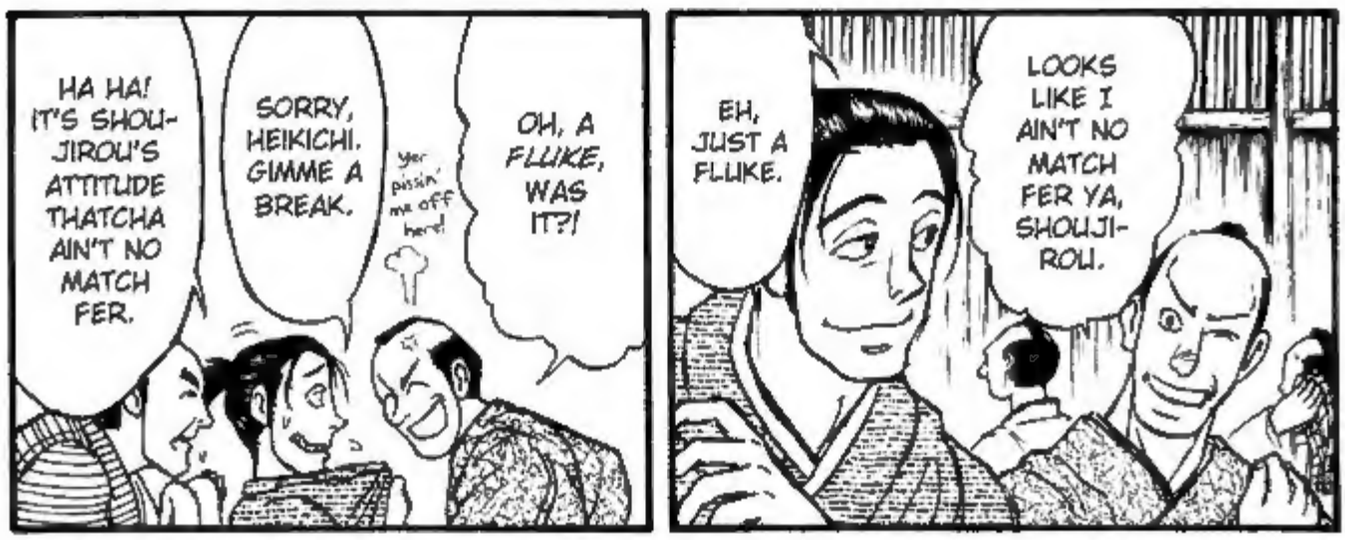
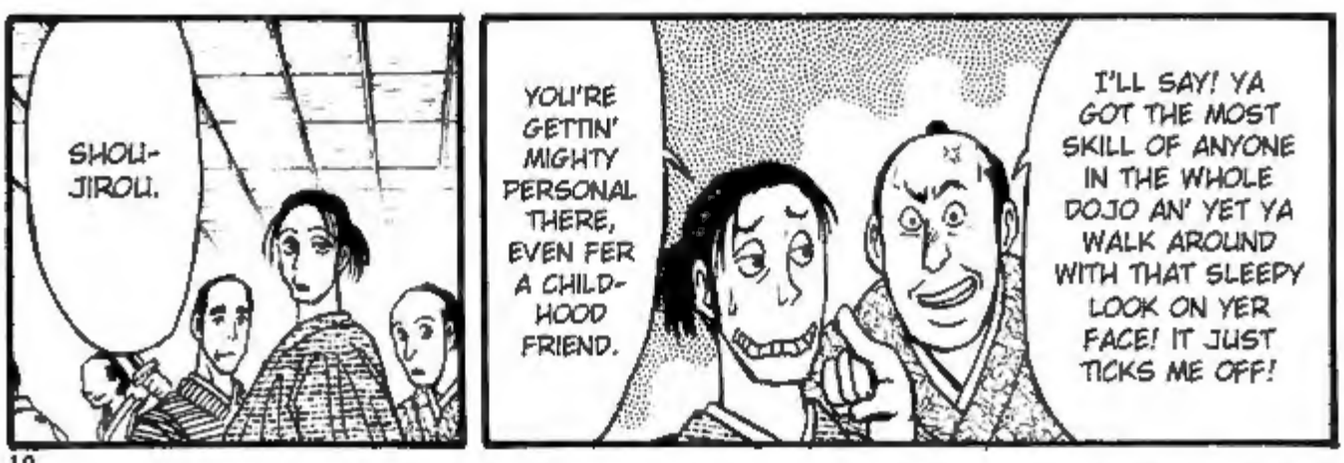
I'm not done yet!
ENO-UGH!

BOW!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
RI-GHT.
THAT'S ALL FOR PRACTICE TODAY.
GOOD WORK FINDING YOUR CHANCE TO THROW HIM, SHOUJI-ROU.


HA HA! IT'S SHOU-JIROU'S ATTITUDE THATCHA AIN'T NO MATCH FER.
SORRY, HEIKICHI. GIMME A BREAK.
yer pissin' me off here!
OH, A FLUKE, WAS IT?!
EH, JUST A FLUKE.
LOOKS LIKE I AIN'T NO MATCH FER YA, SHOUJI-ROU.


SHOU-JIROU.
YOU'RE GETTIN' MIGHTY PERSONAL THERE, EVEN FER A CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.
I'LL SAY! YA GOT THE MOST SKILL OF ANYONE IN THE WHOLE DOJO AN' YET YA WALK AROUND WITH THAT SLEEPY LOOK ON YER FACE! IT JUST TICKS ME OFF!

SENSEI'S PUSHIN' FER YOU 'N' YAE-DONO T'MAKE A MATCH OF IT. HE'S PLANNIN' ON LEAVIN' THE DOJO IN YER HANDS, YA KNOW.
YES, SIR...

WHY DON'T YOU STOP BY AND LET YAE SERVE YOU SOME TEA.
YESSIR.

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Here we go again...
WOULDJA LOOK AT WHAT WE GOT HERE! A MAN OF HIS AGE WHO AIN'T EVEN IN THE MARKET FER A WIFE. AIN'T THAT A CRYIN' SHAME!
MM, YEAH... BUT I JUST AIN'T NO GOOD WITH WOMEN.

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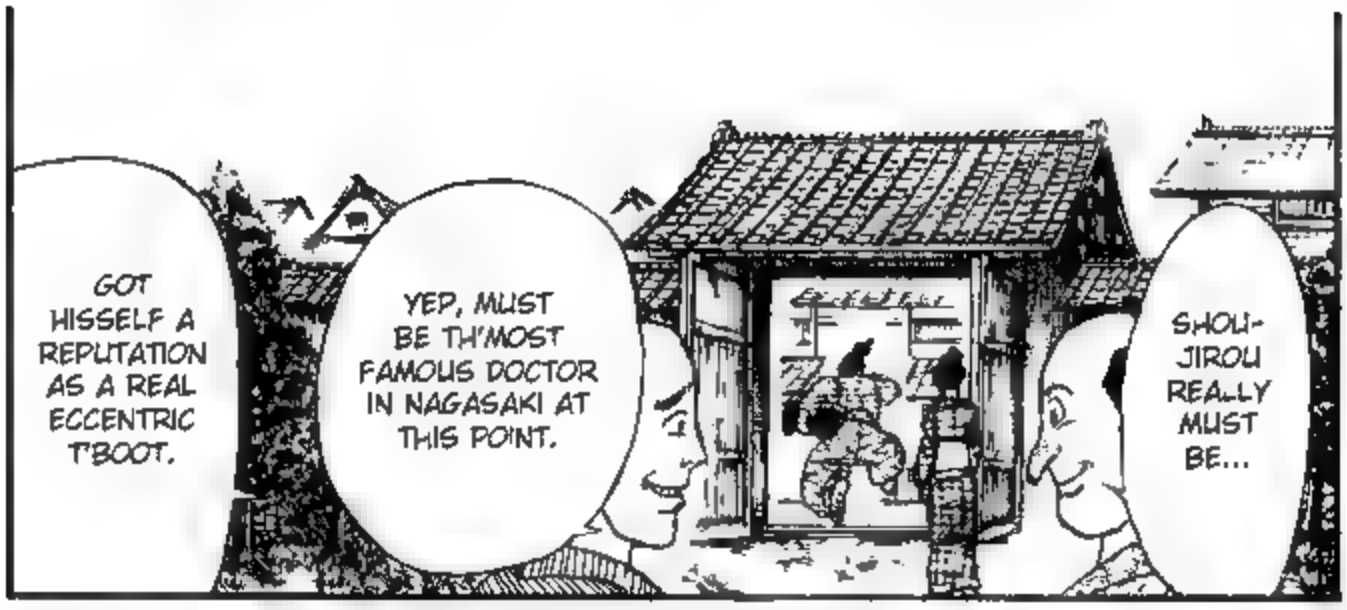
MY SON'S COME DOWN WITH A FEVER ...
'SCUSE ME! IS NARUSE-SENSEI HERE?!

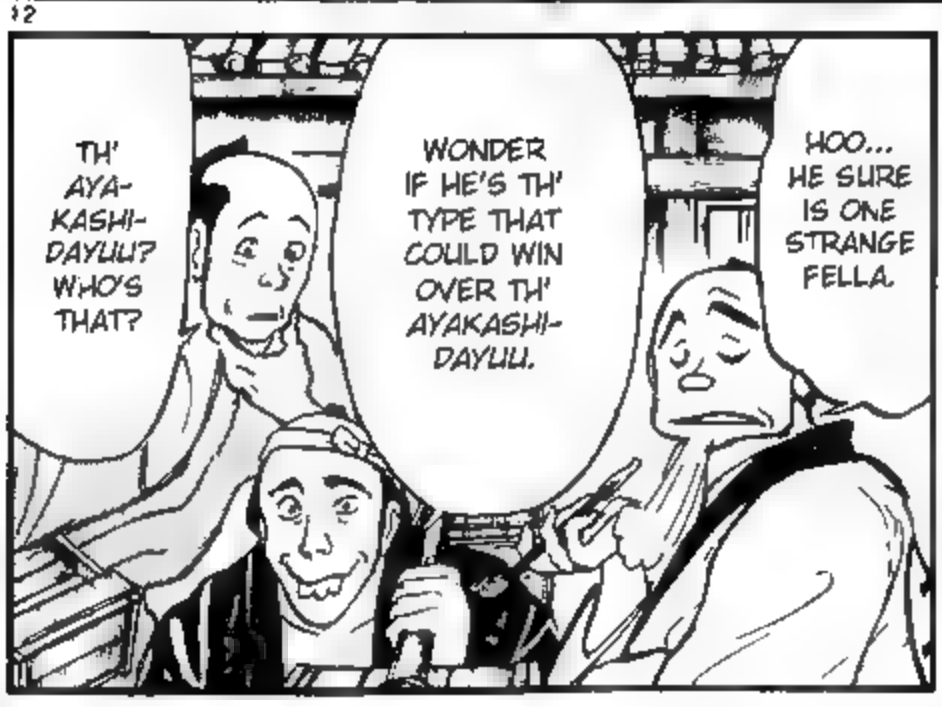
AND I'M OFF!

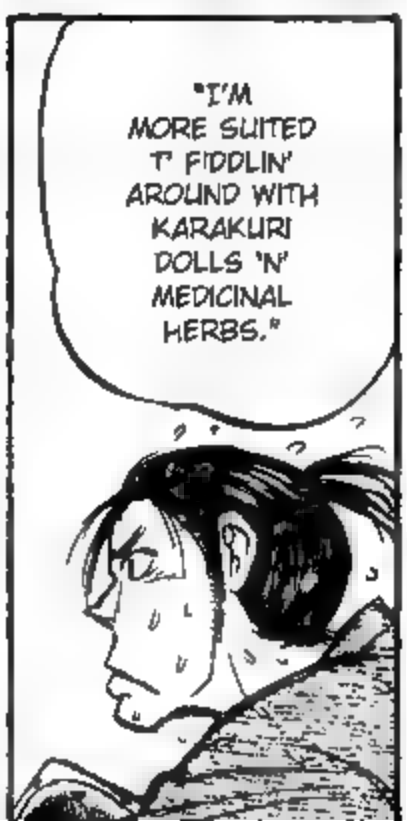
SENSEI! HUMBLEST APOLOGIES 'N' ALL, BUT A JOB'S COME UP! YOU'LL HAFTA EXCUSE ME.


GOT HISSELF A REPUTATION AS A REAL ECCENTRIC T'BOOT.
YEP, MUST BE TH'MOST FAMOUS DOCTOR IN NAGASAKI AT THIS POINT.
SHOU-JIROU REALLY MUST BE...

'NOTHER SICK PERSON MUSTA CROPPED UP SOME-PLACE!
OH! THERE GOES SHOUJIROU-SENSEI, OFF AS FAST 'S HE KIN GO!

THERE'S PLENTYA FATHERS IN TOWN WHO'D LOVE T'SEE THEIR DAUGHTERS SETTLED DOWN AS A DOCTOR'S WIFE, BUT ALL SENSEI EVER SAYS IS...
THAT HE IS. THEY SAY HE'S 36 YEARS OLD AN' STILL SINGLE!
HE SURELY IS A MIGHTY STRANGE ONE.


TH' AYA-KASHI-DAYUU? WHO'S THAT?
WONDER IF HE'S TH' TYPE THAT COULD WIN OVER TH' AYAKASHI-DAYUU.
HOO... HE SURE IS ONE STRANGE FELLA.


"I'M MORE SUITED T' FIDDLIN' AROUND WITH KARAKURI DOLLS 'N' MEDICINAL HERBS."

OH! YA MEAN THAT COURTESAN WITH TH'STRANGE FACE, THE ONE WHO'S TURNED DOWN ALL HER CUSTOMERS?
RUMORS'RE SPRINGIN' UP ABOUT AN OIRAN DOWN IN TH' MARUYAMA DISTRICT.
WHAT, YOU AIN'T HEARD?
A YEAR AGO, SHE SUDDENLY POPPED UP IN MARUYAMA AS ONE A'THE HIGH RANKIN' TAYUU COURTESANS.
WORD HAS IT SHE CAME HERE FROM EDO, THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS WHAT COUNTRY SHE MIGHTA COME FROM ORIGINALLY.
THAT SURE IS MIGHTY ODD.
SHE'LL STILL TURN YA DOWN, BUT YOU'LL WALK OUT WITH A HEALTHY TUMMY.
SHE KNOWS ABOUT MEDICINE TOO. IF YA GO TO HER WITH STOMACH TROUBLE ...
WORD HAS IT SHE KNOWS ALL ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF TH'STARS, MAGIC SPELLS, FOREIGN COUNTRIES, FLOWERS, ALL TYPES A' LORE 'N' LEGENDS... ALL SORTS A' THINGS.
SHE'S A TOTAL MYSTERY TO EVERYONE. BUT DESPITE HOW SHE ACTS, SHE'S STILL A TAYUU, SO SHE KIN TALK ABOUT ALL KINDSA INTERESTIN' STUFF.
!!!
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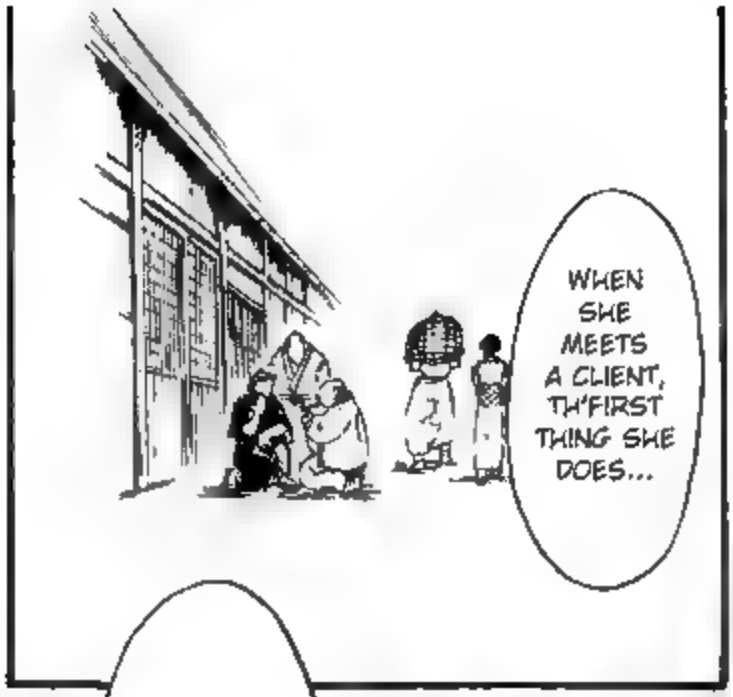
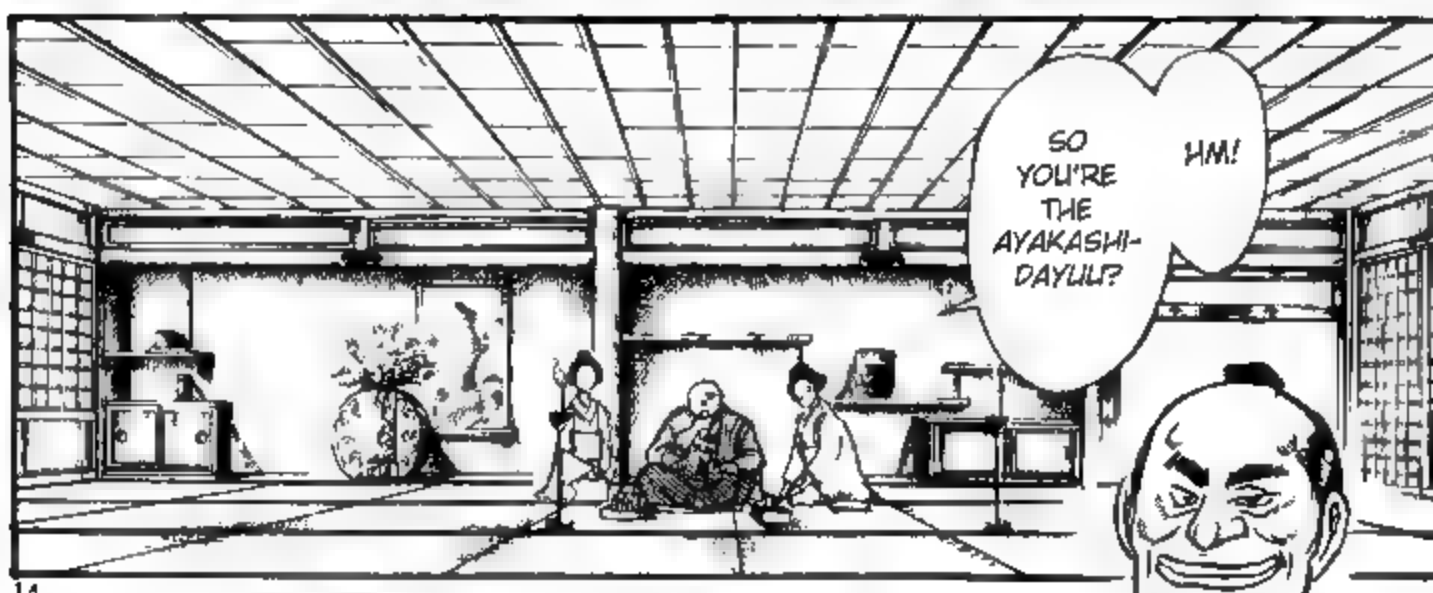
THAT AIN'T THE ONLY ODD THING ABOUT HER.
WELL, HOLDJER HORSES JUST A MINUTE.
SOUNDS PURTY WELL MATCHED WITH SHOUJIROU-SENSEI, DON'T SHE?


WHEN SHE MEETS A CLIENT, TH'FIRST THING SHE DOES...

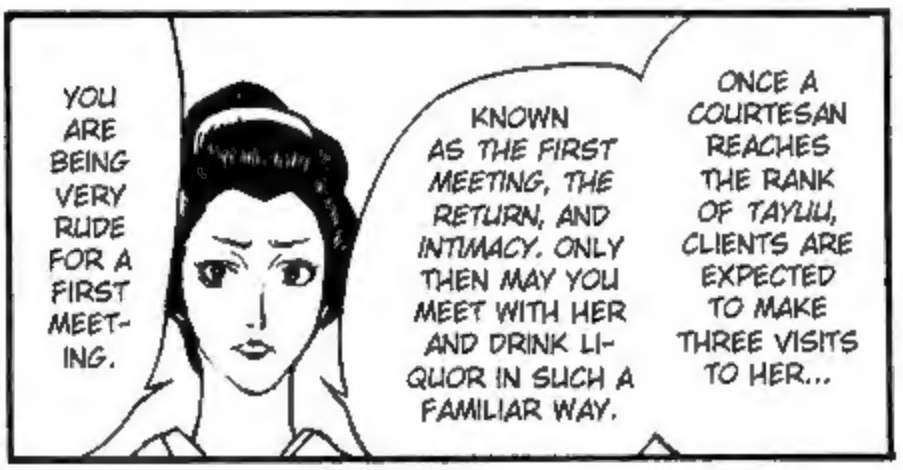
YA KNOW, THAT THING ...
WHAT? WHAT'D I MISS?

IS ASK A QUES-TION.


SO YOU'RE THE AYAKASHI-DAYUU?
HM!

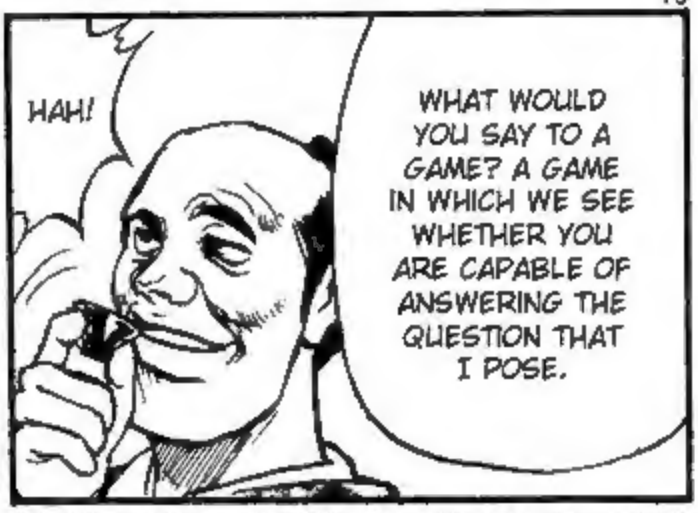
IF IT'S A QUESTION OF MONEY, TAKE ALL YOU WANT. BE MINE!

WELL, WHEN YOU'VE GOT AS MUCH MONEY AS ME, YOU GET A HANKERING FOR THE ODD EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.
YOUR FACE IS JUST AS ODD AS THEY SAY.

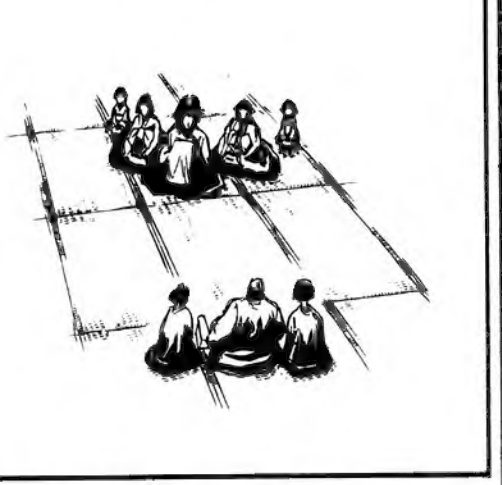

YOU ARE BEING VERY RUDE FOR A FIRST MEET-ING.
KNOWN AS THE FIRST MEETING, THE RETURN, AND INTIMACY. ONLY THEN MAY YOU MEET WITH HER AND DRINK LI-QUOR IN SUCH A FAMILIAR WAY.
ONCE A COURTESAN REACHES THE RANK OF TAYUU, CLIENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE THREE VISITS TO HER...

15

GO ON AND ASK!
I'VE STUDIED MY SHARE OF KNOWLEDGE FROM THE WEST, TOO. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN STUMP ME WITH, NO MATTER HOW TALENTED A PROSTITUTE YOU ARE!



*TEN RYO: ABOUT 1-1.5 MILLION YEN ($10,000 ON AVERAGE)



WH-WHAT ...
THAT'S... NOT EVEN POSSIBLE ...!

SO YOU TOO HAVE NO ANSWER TO GIVE ME...
GOOD SIR?

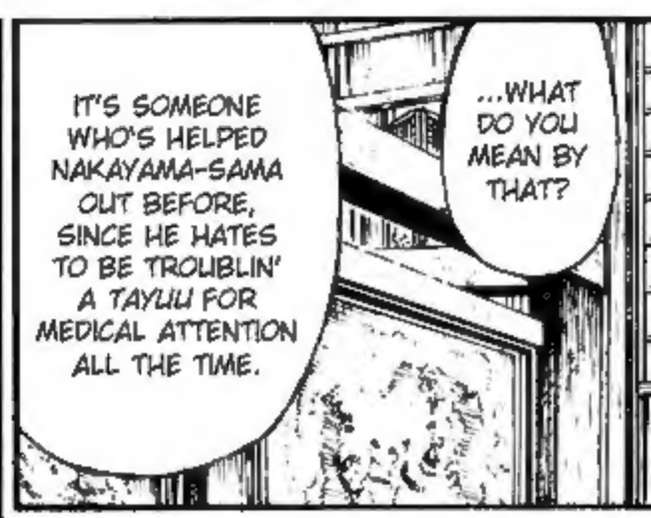
OF A BODY INCAPABLE OF DYING FOR ALL ETERNITY?

WHAT USE WOULD YOU MAKE ...

ONE OF THE NA-NUSHI, NAKAYAMA-SAMA, HAS TAKEN ILL AGAIN!
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
OH! THERE YOU ARE, MA'AM! THERE'S TROU-BLE!
Damn you...!

UH, NO, ACTUALLY... HE'S ALREADY CALLED FOR A DOCTOR.
VERY WELL. IF YOU WILL CONDUCT ME THITHER...
NAKA-YAMA-SAMA SUFFERS FROM A HEART CONDITION.

WELL, THE THING IS... APPARENTLY, THIS IS THE BEST DOCTOR IN NAGA-SAKI.


IT'S SOMEONE WHO'S HELPED NAKAYAMA-SAMA OUT BEFORE, SINCE HE HATES TO BE TROUBLIN' A TAYUU FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION ALL THE TIME.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

THIS IS NOT AN AILMENT THAT CAN BE SEEN TO BY THE LIKES OF A MERE TOWN DOCTOR.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES:

Maruyama was the section of Nagasaki that contained the brothels. *Tayuu* were the highest-ranked level of courtesan. They were trained to provide entertainment and stimulating conversation along with other forms of stimulation. However, they did not have sex on the first meeting, and they also had the right to refuse sexual services to any client. An average tayuu's fee was around 1 *ryo*.

*Ayakashi* can mean simply 'strange', but the word also refers to *youkai* that appear on the surface of the sea. In Nagasaki, it's a term for ghostly lights found on the beach, which are attributed to *youkai*. *Ayakashi-dayuu* seems at first glance to mean something like The Unearthly Courtesan, but *ayakashi* in this case turns out to be accurate in more than one sense. Since both words have such a specific meaning, I decided to leave it untranslated.

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.